

Heritage Valley Pentecostal Church
Congregation Information Meeting on
“Moving Forward with God and Others”

1. Introduction

On Sunday, August 19, 2019, we were enormously honoured to begin meeting at Taylor Seminary for our Sunday morning gatherings. Without question, our time together has been blessed of the Lord, with each of us demonstrating gratitude and thanksgiving for the opportunity to work together for the growth and health of the Church of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God.

However, as we duly informed you as a congregation on Sunday, July 14, 2024, we were informed by Taylor Seminary on July 4, 2024 that due to transitions within their ministry, our current annual rental agreement with them would end on Monday, September 30, 2024.

As a result, as we shared with you at our Congregational Information Meeting on Sunday, July 14, 2024, we then met as a Pastor’s Council on Thursday, July 10, 2024 to discuss and decide our church’s next steps. In that meeting, the Pastor’s Council agreed upon and set forth a process and guidelines to help us “Move Forward With God and Others” in securing a new ministry location.

2. Review of Process Researching and Scouting Relocation Options

If you might allow me a brief moment to report to you the major steps taken in researching and scouting relocation options:

1) First, two of our church committees, the first being the Future Committee composed of myself, Dianne DeJong, Harold & Janet Eldridge, Bob Gal, Jeff Johnsson and Brian Korthuis; and the second being the Human Resources – Logistics Committee made up of myself, Donna Baker, Marilyn Balehowsky, Janet Eldridge, Pastor Philip Nadurak and Colleen Lindoff, were tasked with the job of researching and scouting relocation options.

2) Second, the two committees decided to research and scout relocation options in Business/Commercial Space, Local Church Space, and Community at Large Spaces such as those in schools, theatres and community league halls. As of August 22, 2024, we made contact with 92 possible relocation sites in south Edmonton.

3) Third, in order to fully document all our efforts and in a desire to be accountable to our congregation, we have developed a spread sheet chronicling our efforts in finding and securing a workable relocation space. For those who desire to see that spread sheet, we are happy to share that with you, along with a map that depicts the various locations.

4) Fourth, in an effort to determine where our attendees and members come from in order to attend our church and a new location, we also created a map clearly depicting where we reside in Edmonton. It is evident from our efforts that our church is made up of folks mostly from the south side of Edmonton, from east to west. As well, we have congregants who travel weekly from St. Albert, Ardrossan, Sherwood Park, Claireview, Leduc and other points within the Greater Edmonton region.

5) Fifth, we also carried out a study of attendees and church members and how close and far they are in time and distance to Taylor Seminary and to our new location. As it turns out, from an average and cumulative perspective, our new ministry site will be closer in time and distance than to Taylor Seminary. However, we understand that for some, the new location will require more travel time than to Taylor, but for many others, the new location will mean less travel time getting to

church. All in all, the new church site is nicely located in relation to major streets and avenues leading to the south side and within a major area of south Edmonton – but more on that to come. If you wish to see our study in this matter, we are more than happy to share that with you.

3. Pastor's Council Meeting, August 22, 2024: Review of Scouting and Research Findings and Decision Made Regarding New Ministry Site

Therefore, after gathering all the necessary information in order to review it and make a decision moving forward into a new church site, the Pastor's Council met on Thursday evening, August 22, 2024 and made a unanimous decision regarding our church's exciting new chapter in a new location.

1) This morning, grateful to the Lord's direction and the prayer support of our congregation, we are pleased to announce that on October 1, 2024, Heritage Valley Pentecostal Assembly will be wonderfully settled into a lovely church called **The Multicultural Christian Church of Edmonton**, located at 4415 36 Ave. NW. Now if I might, allow me to briefly describe The Multicultural Christian Church of Edmonton to you.

a) First it is affiliated with the respected denomination, The Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada and is owned, governed and operated by a fantastic and vibrant congregation led by Rev. Dr. V.P. Singh and his team.

b) Second, The Multicultural Christian Church of Edmonton is primarily composed of an East Indian congregation made up of varied generations, but they also lease their church space to a group of Filipino Christians and desire to lease their church facilities to us as well.

c) Third, The Multicultural Christian Church of Edmonton also conducts church services in the Hindi, Punjabi and Gujarati languages.

d) Fourth, the East Indian and Filipino congregants meet for their primary worship services on Sunday night and Saturday, respectively. As a result, we as a church will be able to exclusively worship on Sunday mornings at the same time we've always done, at 10:30 AM. Incidentally, by us being able to meet during the prime time morning worship slot, we will be able to offer an English speaking option to the surrounding neighbourhoods through the marvelous facilities of The Multicultural Christian Church of Edmonton. This will likely expand our mission and reach into the community at large with the good news of Jesus Christ.

e) Fifth, it may be a moot point, but Pastor Bob Gal and I have been long time friends with Pastor VP and have served with him on the Board of West Edmonton Marketplace Chapel for many years. As a result, a beautiful, caring and productive ministry relationship has already been established long before this new agreement. We know we can work together as churches and ministries to expand the Kingdom of God.

2) In addition to these factors, our Pastor's Council also felt leasing space with The Multicultural Christian Church of Edmonton was our most workable option for the following reasons:

a) First, it allows us to worship as a church on Sunday mornings at 10:30 AM in a newly refurbished sanctuary space that will be able to accommodate our present and future needs.

b) Second, the sanctuary space allows us to continue to enjoy quality sound, as well as, carry on with our online ministry.

c) Third, the sanctuary space has a lovely area set aside for coffee fellowships following worship gatherings, as well as, potlucks – all on a level space.

d) Fourth, we now have space in the downstairs of the church to commence ministry to children on Sunday mornings; and we have taken steps to begin training volunteers through the *Plan to Protect* program to equip folks to serve children and their families.

e) Fifth, we will have space, both upstairs and downstairs, for mid week ministries for our young people, young married's, men's and women's Bible studies, Grief Share, and other groups.

f) Sixth, we will have secure storage space for some of our ministry files and equipment.

g) Seventh, the lease agreement is well within our projected budget and is very affordable and reasonable for us going forward.

h) Eighth, the church space is on the south side of Edmonton where the majority of our present congregation reside, but is well located to nearby connecting thorough ways from those in the Greater Edmonton area.

i) Ninth, it has adequate parking for our congregation.

j) Tenth, it is church space that is well rooted in a multicultural and multi generational neighbourhood that will enable us to reach out and touch the community at large. For example there is a public school across the street, with a strip mall of businesses and private residences and apartments within two to three minutes walking distance of the church building.

k) Eleventh, we have the opportunity to work together as churches, not only for an extended time, but on various occasions on special events such as Pancake Breakfasts, in order to connect with the community.

l) Twelfth, we have connected with the PAOC Alberta/NWT District Office about our move and they have blessed us. As well we have contacted two sister Pentecostal churches in the vicinity, namely, Life Church and Hope City Church and they too have blessed our move; and may choose to work with us from time to time on special initiatives into the community.

Now these are some of the reasons, along with our research and scouting efforts that have led to our decision to relocate to The Multicultural Christian Church of Edmonton.

3) Now as you can see from the photos on the screen, there are two ramps on the outside of the church building designed to assist those with mobility issues to access the building.

a) First, there is a ramp on the west side of the building that leads directly into and out of the Main Sanctuary and an adjoining washroom facility on the main floor.

b) Second, there is a ramp on the south side of the building leading up to the front doors.

c) Third, there are designated handicapped parking spaces adjacent to these two ramps.

4) However, we have indicated to The Multicultural Christian Church of Edmonton, that we would like to work with them to enhance the accessibility features outside and inside the building.

a) First, we have formed a Facilities Committee, chaired by Gary Rohr and composed of John Fraietta, Jeff Johnsson and Doug Seargeant, who have already begun working with folks at

The Multicultural Christian Church of Edmonton, to enhance matters connected to accessibility features.

b) Second, we as Pastor's Council decided to invest some of our congregation's finances into ensuring accessibility is addressed at the church. We will share more on this feature in the days ahead.

c) Third, we will be developing further a 'Welcome and Ushering' Team to work with and 'buddy up' with any folks who desire support in mobility, ensuring their church experience is joyful and positive. There will be more on that later.

4. Next Steps

1) First, over the next month, our Human Resources – Logistics Committee will be spearheading our move to The Multicultural Christian Church of Edmonton.

2) Second, we will need to move our equipment, furniture, and resources that we presently have at an office we rent here at Taylor Seminary, to the new location. We will require help with this move and if you can lend a hand, we would please ask that you contact Donna Baker, Colleen Lindoff or myself. More details to come.

3) Third, we will also be privileged to plan on using space that we lease at the *Problem Gambling Resource Network* offices for any matters as required.

4) Fourth, and finally, we would ask each of you to continue to bath our church in prayer as you have already done – asking that our transition will be smooth and that God will use our new beginnings in seeing our church grow in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

We thank the Lord that He has led us this far, and His plans for us in the future are already blessed. So may we go forward for His glory and the expansion of the Kingdom. Amen.